

M: 13-37

1918

Arthur Gibson House  
Clarksburg  
Private

This handsome two-story frame house with a typical three-bay facade was constructed by the black carpenter, Arthur Gibson, on land acquired by his grandfather in the late 1800's. Gibson was a skilled jack-of-all-trades and built several black families' houses in Clarksburg and Boyds, three of which remain standing.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 13-37  
Magi #

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Arthur Gibson House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

East side of Clarksburg Road

CITY, TOWN

Clarksburg

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

No

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Frank D. and Kay B. Dorsey

Telephone #: 424-5219

STREET &amp; NUMBER

c/o Laura Gray, Clarksburg Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Clarksburg

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M.13-37

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

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This handsome two story frame house with gable roof stands on the east side of Clarksburg Road. Its facade is oriented towards the road. The length of the house contains three bays; the door centrally located, flanked by two windows. The house is one bay in depth. The facade is sheltered by a shed porch and the frame is covered with overlapping weatherboards. The eaves are boxed, and the corners of the house are accented with trim boards. (In plan, the interior consists of two rooms down and two up).

The house has been modernized in recent years, however, the older photograph which has been copied as part of this survey, shows its earlier appearance. Refer to that photograph for descriptions of its earlier and more original appearance. To the rear of the house has been added a small shed, a kitchen apparently. None of the outbuildings remain except for a small building which, according to Arthur Randolph, the Gibsons lived in when this house was being built after the original house burned in c. 1918.

The environs of the house have changed considerably since its time of occupancy. The land has now been purchased by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Behind the house is a pond and to north of the house is a small picnic area. Across from the house (west) is a cluster of houses. These homes are the residences of the descendants and relatives of the Gibson family who have built their homes on property that Arthur Gibson purchased in earlier years.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1912

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

ARTHUR GIBSON

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to the deed 212/186, this tract of 1.75 acres was purchased by Arthur M. and Ella M. Gibson from George T. Williams in 1910. It was part of the tract known as "Tomahawk". Since Gibson bought the property for five hundred dollars, there must have been a house already built. This is confirmed by Arthur Randolph, the Gibsons' nephew. According to him, the original house burned and his uncle built this house on the same foundations.

According to Randolph, his uncle was a skilled carpenter and a proud man. This is shown in the photograph of him, which was copied. Enclosed with this report is a letter to the newspaper from Gibson denouncing the development of Jim Crow (segregation) in Maryland. This letter reveals Gibson's strong of self.

The Gibson family was part of the extended family of Black landowners along Clarksburg Road, north of Clarksburg. Arthur's wife was Ella Mae Hackey; her brother was William L. Hackey, a landowner, and her sister, Dora Randolph, married Robert Randolph another landowner along Clarksburg Road. Gibson's grandfather was George T. Williams, one of the first Trustees of the John Wesley Church in Clarksburg.

There are four houses that were built by Arthur Gibson that still remain standing. One is the Zelma Foreman house, which has been recorded as part of the "Foreman Hill houses". It was built in the early 1930s as an attachment to an older house that was moved to the site. He assisted his brother-in-law, William L. Hackey, in the construction of his house on Clarksburg Road. In 1947 he built a house for James Green next to the Rachel Mason house in Clarksburg. After the disastrous fire that destroyed his own house in c. 1918, Gibson constructed a small house for his family to live in, while he built a larger home on the very same foundations of the first house. Except for the home of James Green, all of these homes built by Gibson have been recorded as examples of his work.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- 1) Land Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Md. = 4970/403 A
- 2) Interviews (not taped) with Ethel Foreman and Arthur Randolph, Clarksburg, Md., November-January 1978 by George McDaniel.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel, Surveyor; Karen Sewell, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

Jan. 79

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust~~  
~~The Shaw House, 21 State Circle~~  
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~  
~~(301) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
 Box 87, Street 5003  
 Dickerson, Md. 20753  
 (301) 926-4510



M: 13-37

Ella May Gibson, wife of  
Arthur Gibson, & sister of  
As William L. Hackey  
Clarkburg Md.

copy of family photograph  
11/28 gum





Arthur Gibson House

Rear Length: East S.E.  
13-37 elevation  
M. 13-10-4

Clarksburg, Md.

12178 gwm

1-21134 #18



M: 13-37

Arthur Gibson

copy of family photo

Clarksburg, Md.

11/78 Sun



M: 13-37

Gibson House

Facade : West Elevation

Clarksburg Md.

copy of family photograph

gum 11/28